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133

The road leading down to the Bicaz gorge which the river has cut through Cretaceous rocks just to the south of Ceahlau. *Photo: Miss M. Vines.*

361

View looking across the tectonic basin of the upper Olt. *Photo: J. Cvijic.*

Bilbor—a characteristic "dispersed" settlement in a small intermont basin, most of the floor of which is given over to the production of hay. *Photo: J. E. Dumit.*

facing page 12

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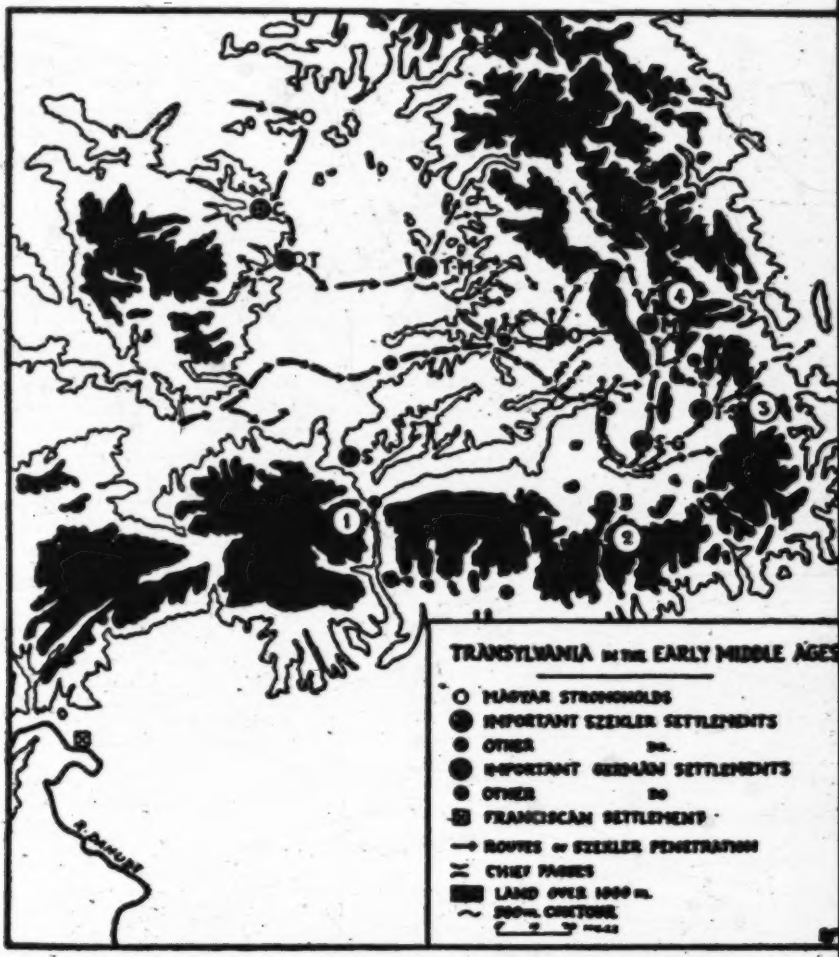

FIGURE 4. B = Brașov, C = Cluj, M = Miercurea Ciucului, O = Odorhei, R = Rodna, S = Sibiu, S-G = Sf. Gheorghe. T = Turda, T-M = Targu-Mureș, T-S = Targu-Secuesc. Passes: (1) Olt, (2) Prahova, (3) Oltuz, (4) Ghimeș.

144 head form, but whether this is due to the persistence of original characteristics or to partial fusion with the Roumanians it is impossible to say. At all events, they are essentially Magyar in culture, and accompanied the Magyars in their conquest of Hungary in the ninth century.

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175 FIGURE 4 shows that their penetration of Transylvania followed the valleys of the Mureș and its tributaries, which

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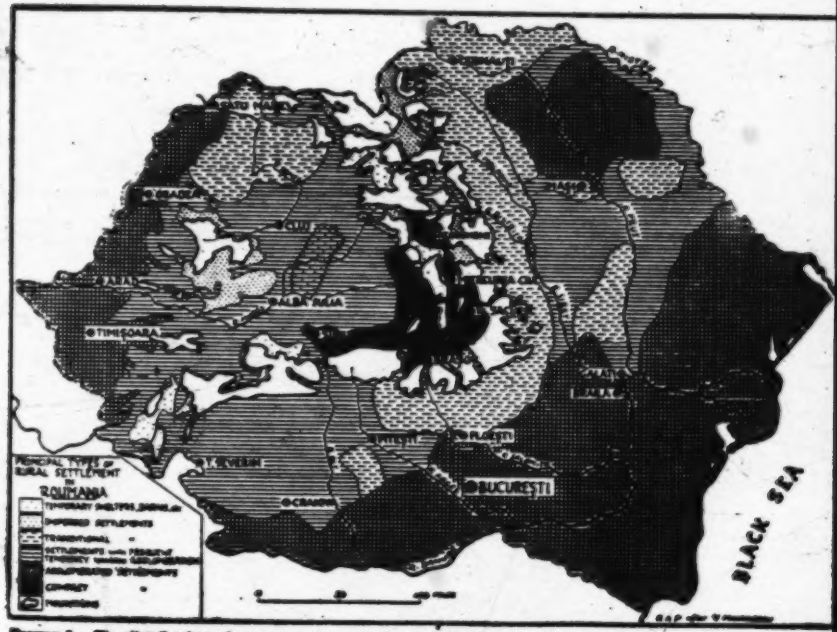

FIGURE 5. The distributions shown are only approximate, but they show the broad distinction between the typical Roumanian settlements ("dispersed" and "transitional") of the mountains and foothills and the compact [illegible] and Saxon settlements of the Transylvanian lowlands.

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led naturally towards the tectonic basins of Treiscaune, Ciuc and Giurgiu, though these were not actually occupied until the thirteenth century. The Szeklers did not, however, displace the indigenous Roumanian population in these lowland areas; neither have they maintained the same degree of "contiguous isolation" as have the Saxons. During the nineteenth century in fact, there has been a steady assimilation of the Roumanian peasantry, some measure of which may be gained from the fact that since the middle of the century a Roumanian majority has been changed into a Szekler majority in 109 communes, whereas the reverse process has been effected in only 96 communes. In the former case, large numbers of Roumanians have adopted the dress and religion of the Szeklers, but the Roumanian

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PICTURE 6. This illustrates the sharp distinction between the forested highlands and the lowlands, and should be compared with Figures 5 a...

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majorities have resulted from the valleyward movement of families that had previously farmed the slopes overlooking these intermont basins.

361 361 AN IMPORTANT distinction between the Roumanians and the rest of the population is seen in the types and distribution of their settlements (see Fig 6). The former, with their customary attachment to highland areas and to pastoral life, are usually associated with a dispersed or loosely agglomerated

361

type, whereas the truly compact or nucleated type is found only in regions settled by Saxons and Szeklers (see Fig. 8). It is difficult to determine how far this distinction is ethnographic and how far it is the product of differences between two sharply contrasted environments. Generally speaking, in eastern Transylvania the mountain population is Roumanian and the lower lands are peopled by Saxons and Szeklers, environments which would normally suit the dispersed and compact types respectively. On the other hand, the Roumanian steppe villages which one would expect to be

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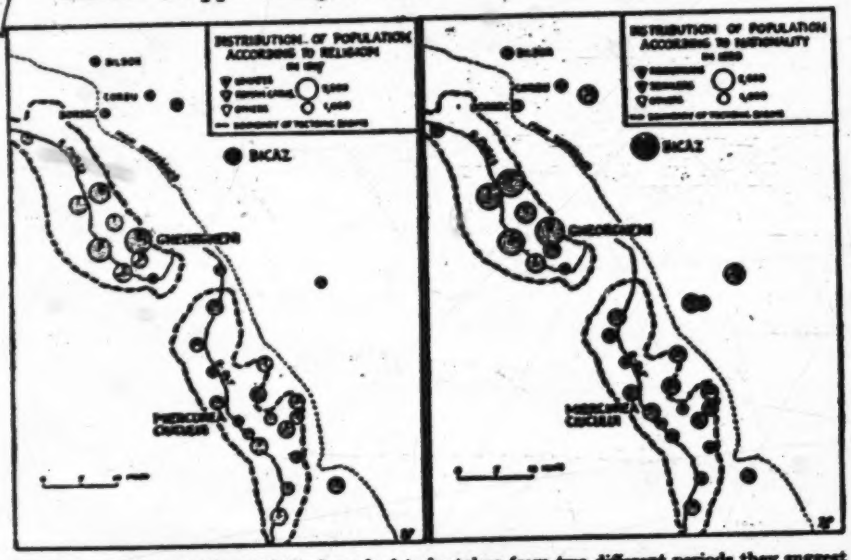

FIGURE 7. Although the statistics have had to be taken from two different periods they suggest a close correlation between nationality and religion in this section of the eastern Carpathians. The concentration of Roumanians in the hills and Szeklers in the plains is also very marked.

compact or nucleated differ from those of the Saxons and Szeklers in this important respect: whereas the houses in the latter are often contiguous, those in the former, although closely packed, are almost invariably detached. Even where the amount of space available for building is very limited the Roumanian prefers to surround his house with a garden, and, where ample space prevails, orchards in the foothills and the plain and hay meadows in the highlands tend still further to segregate the dwellings. In small upland basins such as that of Bilbor the "village" may occupy hundreds of

● 3 6 acres, each house, apart from a small agglomeration around the church, being separated from its neighbours by what is almost an unfriendly distance.

THE most typical Roumanian settlement, then, is one that may be broadly described as "scattered," with a tendency towards dispersion in the mountains and nucleation in the plains. It is one that admirably suits the varied geographical conditions of the country, for it is essentially elastic and capable of adaptation to almost any environment. We shall have an opportunity of studying one more fully in Chapter VII.

IN the Eastern Carpathians it is generally true to say that on the west of the main water-divide all settlements above 800 metres are of the dispersed type, except where they command passes, whereas those on the floor of the tectonic basins are nucleated. The former, of course, are mainly inhabited by Roumanians, the latter by Szeklers. The intermediate zone, which would normally be characterised by villages of the "scattered" type, has become largely depopulated owing chiefly to erosion that has followed unregulated deforestation of the lower slopes (see page 27). Even on the floors of the basins, where the population density is greatest, villages are tending to desert the river banks and to become concentrated at the foot of the slopes on account of the flooding that has resulted from the increased run-off. Huge detrital fans are another by-product of the same process, and are seriously impinging upon the already limited stretches of cultivable land.

ON the Moldavian side of the water-divide the more characteristic form of "scattered" village prevails, though giving place in the plain to a more compact type, and higher up, where opportunity allows, to dispersion. Although there are several small highland areas of relatively flat land in the eastern Carpathians, there is nothing to compare with the great stretches of plateau in the western Carpathians, which have been cleared of forest and utilised for the cultivation of grain crops at an altitude which in the former will support only pastoral activities. And although permanent villages (of the dispersed type) are found as high as 1,200 metres in the Bihor, the only habitations at a corresponding height in the eastern Carpathians are the dairies of the transhumant shepherds that are occupied only during the summer months.

349

4:Fleure S-5 (no date)1936 EDl Rumania EDl

PLATE V

Brasov—the Market Place. Behind the shops rises the mediæval Gothic church, which contrasts strikingly with the churches of the Greek Orthodox communities. *Photo: Dr. C. P. Snodgrass.*

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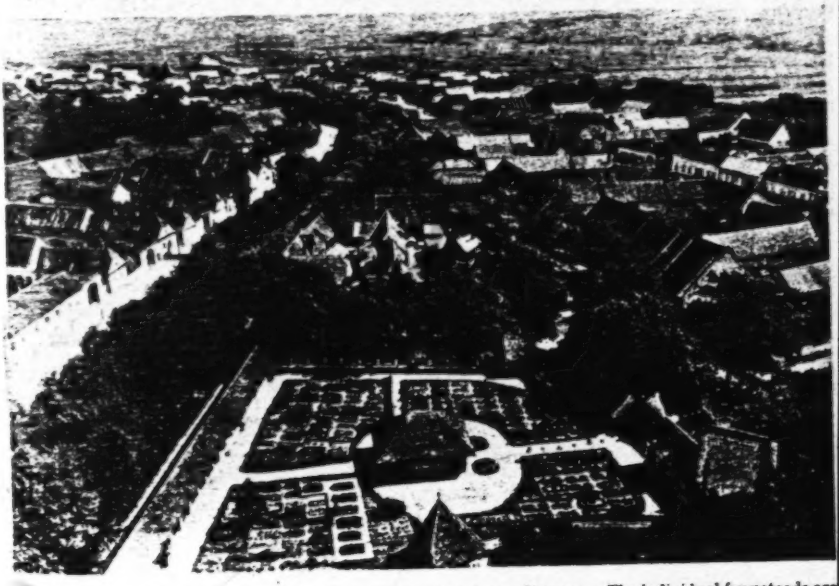

Cristian (formerly Neustadt), a typical Saxon compact village near Brasov. The individual farmsteads are packed closely together and present a somewhat forbidding appearance from the road. The well laid-out area in the foreground is the cemetery. *Photo: Roumanian Press*

[facing page 44]

4:Fleure S-5 (no date)1936 EDl Rumania EDl

VII.—CORBU: A CARPATHIAN VILLAGE

I. THE COMMUNE AND ITS INHABITANTS

Position.

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The village of Corbu is situated in the eastern Carpathians at a height of 700 metres above sea-level. It stands just to the east of the main water divide, and in pre-war days was included within Austro-Hungarian territory, the boundary cutting across the Bistricioara valley a few miles below the village.

The commune sits astride one of the Carpathian passes, the Bistricioara valley linking up with that of the Mureş on the one hand and of the Bistriţa on the other to form a continuous route from Transylvania to the Moldavian Plain. Its position naturally made it the centre of a good deal of fighting during the War, and the blasted spruces on the slopes above the village are grim mementoes of the struggles that took place.

Physical Features.

The physical geography of the commune is comparatively simple. The Bistricioara river, which cuts the commune into two unequal segments, is the principal feature. On either side it receives tributary valleys for the most part normal in profile, though in one or two cases a steep-sided and narrow lower section gives place higher up to somewhat broader, flat-bottomed stretches. Indeed, the upper Bistricioara itself winds its way through a fairly extensive intermont basin of this kind in the commune of Bilbor just before entering that of Corbu.

At one point the main valley is constricted by an outcrop of Porphyry which appears formerly to have extended right across the present course of the Bistricioara. It has been breached, however, leaving a truncated spur running out from the south side of the valley and affording excellent views both up- and down-stream. Largely as a result of deforestation the crystalline schistose and gneissic slopes which rise steeply on either side of the main valley are scored with numerous re-entrants, the masses of detrital

material eroded therefrom being spread out fanwise along the edge of the alluvium. Higher up, small alp-like terraces appear, giving place to precipitous slopes once more where calcareous rocks of Triassic and Jurassic age occur.

CONCERNING climate and vegetation little need be added to the accounts already given of the Eastern Carpathians as a whole. In the case of climate the most important features to be borne in mind are the risk of late summer storms that limit the ripening period for grain, and the winter snowfall which creates a close season for agriculture.

THE VILLAGE.

CORBU has been tentatively classified as a "dispersed" type of village, though it is clear from the photographs (Plate IX) that the narrowness of the valley has rather limited the extent of the dispersion and has given rise to a plan resembling that of the "street village" of Western Europe. Closer examination, however, will reveal a certain looseness of structure, especially where a slight widening of the valley occurs near the confluence of a tributary stream, and it is very probable that if the same village had been founded in a broad flat upland area the houses would have been spread out as in Bilbor (see Plate I).

PEASANT HOUSES.

A GROUP of typical Roumanian farmsteads is illustrated in Plate X whilst the plan on page 67 shows in detail the lay-out of the one depicted on page 43. The principal features in each case are clear. The dwelling houses, of which there are frequently two to a farm, can usually be distinguished by their bright colour-washed walls. There is an abundance of local stone, but the crystalline rocks that are nearest to hand are very intractable, and, although they are employed for the foundations, the superstructure is almost invariably of wood. In Lower Borsec, which is just visible in the distance in Plate IX, an outcrop of Travertine provides a much more easily-worked material, and is very freely employed, but its use does not appear to extend into Corbu. The walls of the Corbu houses are usually built of roughly-squared, less frequently of sawn, timber, to which, in the better-class houses, laths are nailed to form a key for

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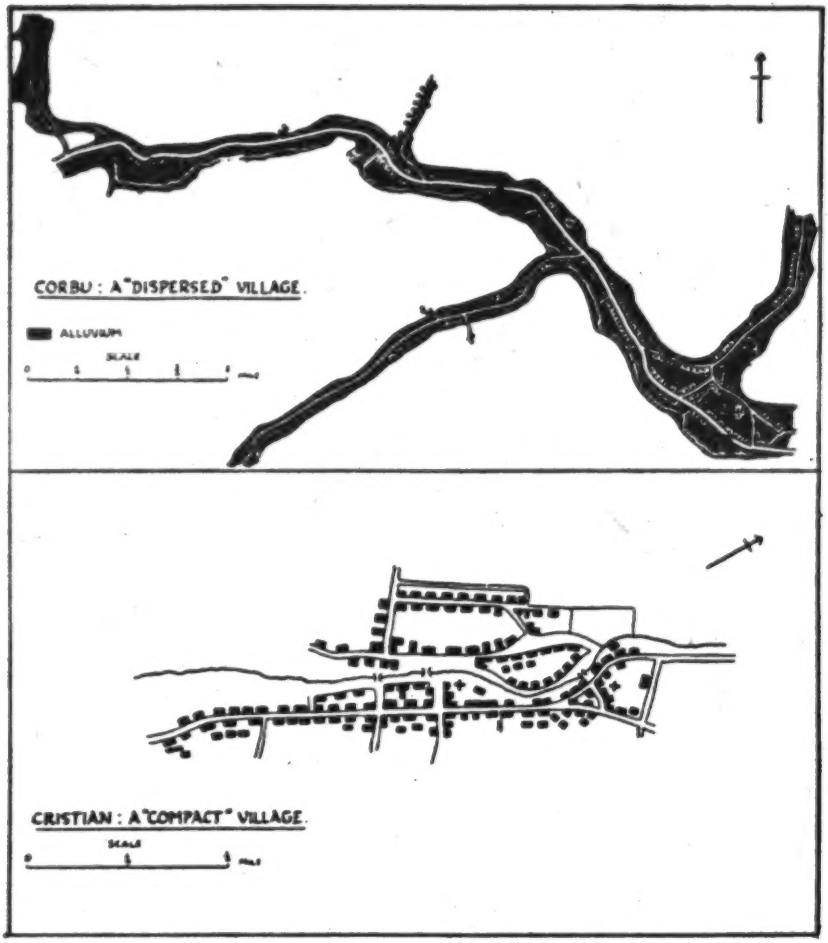

FIGURE 8. The amorphous plan of Corbu contrasts strongly with the more orderly and compact village of the plain. Cristian is near Braşov.

the plaster with which the exterior is then coated. In the poorer houses the gaps between the timbers are merely caulked with clay before a colour-wash is applied.

THE most popular type of roofing material is shingles, which is a welcome contrast to the sheet iron of the plain, though perhaps less picturesque than the steeply-pitched roofs of thatch that are a feature of other mountainous parts of the country. On some of the houses, usually those of the poorer inhabitants, shingles are replaced by longer boards which sometimes extend from ridge to eaves, all three types being illustrated in Plate X.

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Corbu—view from top of porphyry spur looking down-stream. Arable land on the valley floor is devoted mainly to the cultivation of maize. On the right in the foreground lucerne is seen stacked on poles. The lower portions of the steep hill-sides have been cleared for hay meadows, but continuous stretches of forest clothe the upper slopes.

Photo: R. A. Pelham.

Corbu—looking upstream towards Borsec.

Photo: R. A. Pelham.

[facing page 64]

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PLATE X

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Hay meadows on deforested slopes above the limits of cultivation at Corbu. Although this is the upper section of a valley tributary to that of the Bistricioara, it is much broader than the narrowly constricted lower section.

Photo: R. A. Pelham.

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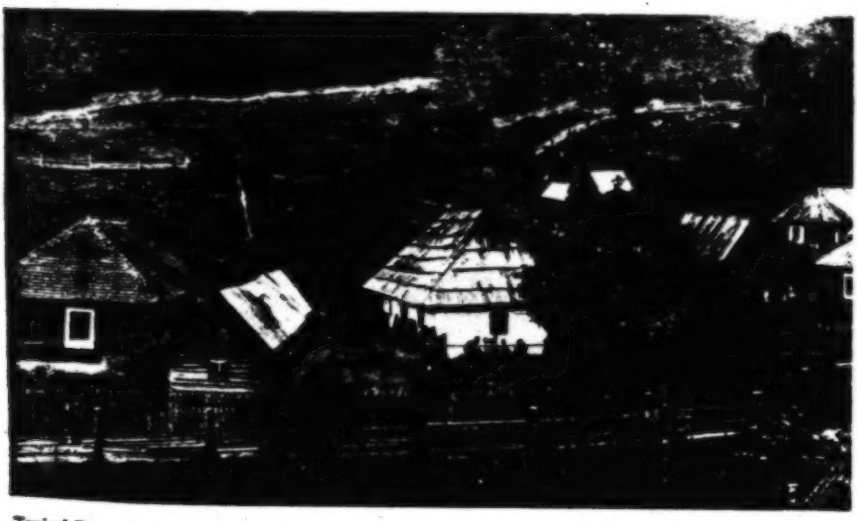

Typical Roumanian farmsteads in Corbu. The houses are roofed with shingles, the outbuildings with boards. The house in the centre has the characteristic louvre in place of chimney, and its walls are of timber with plaster covering. Hemp is drying on the verandah. The mud caulking in the outbuilding is clearly visible.

Photo: R. A. Pelham.

[facing page 65]

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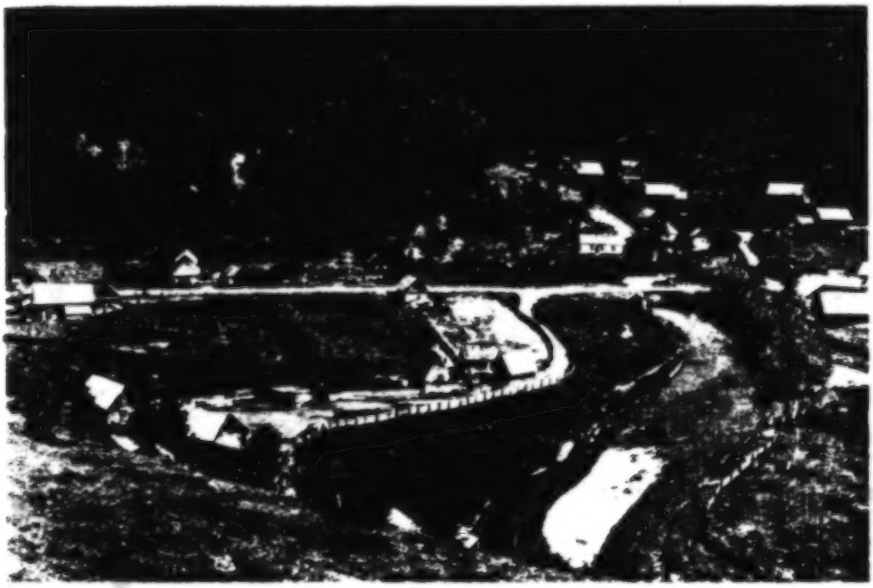

This is part of the area mapped in Fig. 11. The photograph is taken from the top of the porphyry spur shown in Fig. 9. *Photo: R. A. Pelham.*

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A peasant holding at Corbu in process of sub-division. A son about to marry is erecting a house (seen on left) on his share of his father's land. The parental farmstead extends across the right-hand half of the picture. A strip of maize is seen in the foreground and a small patch of hemp on the extreme left, close to the new house. For plan of holding see Fig. 11. *Photo: R. A. Pelham.*

[facing page 68]

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PLATE XII

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A Gipsy smith and his family. The building on the left is the forge.

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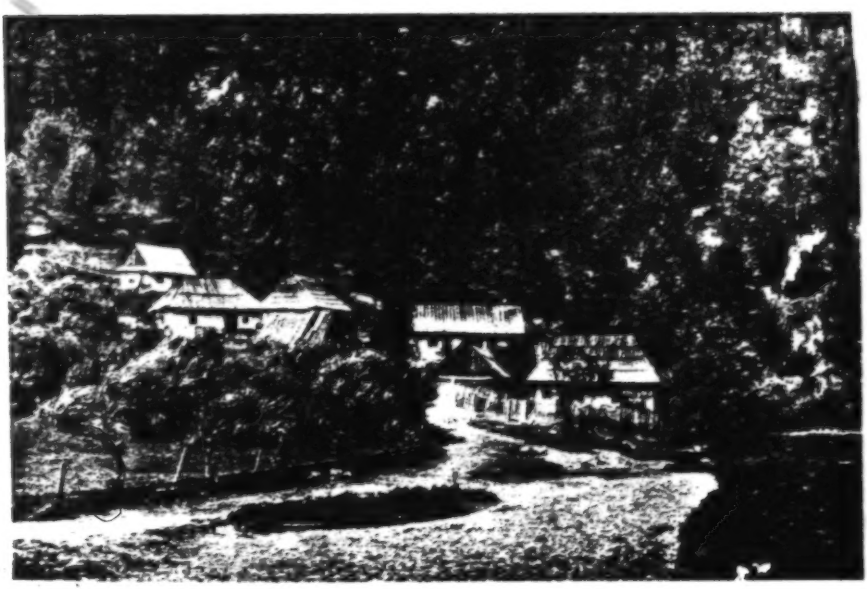
S-2



The Gipsy colony in Corbu. The houses are clustered together on a steep slope and although resembling in style those of the Roumanian peasants are easily distinguished therefrom by not having any arable land attached. *Photo: R. A. Pelham.*

[facing page 69]

000 and the Cyrillic script invented for Slavonic purposes came to be used for religion, even in Roumania. Cities and towns were as yet hardly born in central and east-central Europe.

In the tenth and eleventh centuries, as the Dark Ages were passing away in the west, the idea of the city spread eastwards from the Rhine, sometimes under the leadership of the Church, sometimes around a military leader, sometimes through the planting of colonists by a leader. The Magyar kings accepted Christianity and were drawn into this current of activity, and Transylvania was a frontier land that needed to be developed and guarded. A people of transhumant shepherds and lowly cultivators scattered over a mountain territory was as yet too weak to do this or to resist effectively, while it had no reason to attach itself to the Magyar power, which had different linguistic and religious associations. The Magyars established allied Szekler peoples within the arc of the eastern Carpathians, apparently to some extent as a guard for the passes. They also brought in Saxon immigrants to establish cities as well as villages, and the Teutonic knights and Magyar aristocrats also came to add to the complexity. Szekler and Saxon were Roman Catholic, so a religious complication was added to the linguistic one, and this complexity was further increased when the Saxon element became Protestant on a Lutheran basis, while Unitarianism developed among the Magyars, and the Uniate scheme spread in the border zone between Catholic and Orthodox.

133 Beyond the old Dacia, that is outside the Carpathian bastion, the plains of Wallachia and Moldavia long were highways of barbarian warriors, while their lands nearer the hills are floored by large quantities of boulder-strewn outwash from old sub-glacial conditions in the mountains, so that the areas of more cultivable alluvium are, in the hill country, largely 369 riverside zones. The development of a measure of urban life 361 apparently came later here than in Transylvania, and it may owe something to the Saxon ideas expressed in Transylvania, though neither Saxons or Szeklers are present, and the characteristic Saxon house type with its great arched doorway is completely absent, as is the walled town. The Transylvanian Saxon village (note the villages called Cristian near Sibiu and near Braşov) might have a fortified enclosure around its church, a centre of refuge and of authority. How far analogous developments outside the Carpathian arc are due

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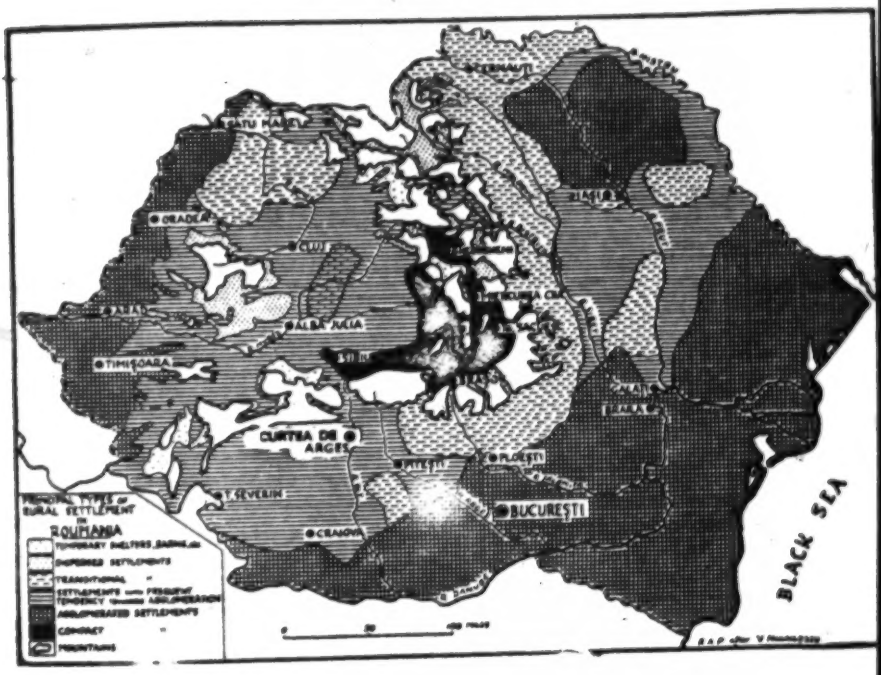
o imitation of the Saxon, and how far they are independent levelopments of a natural and comparatively simple idea, it would be difficult to decide. It is at any rate interesting that the old town of Curtea de Argeș shows clearly as its nucleus a fortified enclosure around its splendid old church of the fourteenth century, the Biserica Domneasca.

H. J. F.



121 considerably from those of the eastern Carpathians; this area is the district focusing upon Curtea de Argeş.

101 133 WALLACHIA has already been described as the land stretching from the southern Carpathians or Transylvanian Alps to the Danube. The mountains themselves are largely of metamorphosed rock with flanking Miocene deposits; they are about 40 km. wide with the sharp main ridge (rising at Negoiu to 2,544 m. or 8,331 feet) parallel to the long flanks about 11 km. from the northern and 29 km. from the southern edge. Several rivers have worked their valleys out among the mountains in a direction parallel to the ridge and the edges.

133 THERE ARE huge accumulations of pebbly, often deltaic, outwash beyond the south flank of the mountains, the layers sloping southward and giving sunward dip-slopes separated by small northward-facing scarps, the woods of which contrast with the arable lands on the dip-slopes. This pebbly outwash is deeply dissected by southward-flowing consequent streams, some of which rise in it, while others, like the Argeş, penetrate the mountain wall, making a wild narrow gorge. In the deep valleys of the pebbly material houses shelter from the north winds. The Olt has cut right through the mountains and captured a subsequent river of the northern flank, and its way through the mountains is by a deep valley, which is wider in some sections that are more or less "subsequent" and narrower in others that are rather "consequent." At about 20-25 km. southward from the mountain wall the residual hills of loose material that stand out between the consequent valleys milden down; the amount of alluvium and the breadth of the river valleys increase and it becomes possible to bridge the rivers, so it is at about this distance from the mountains that have grown the towns of Ramnicu Valcea on the Olt and Curtea de Argeş on the Argeş. Ramnicu Valcea is at the last narrowing of the Olt before it begins to braid on a broad alluvial plain, and its site is not easily defensible. The Argeş has terraces near the stream on the eastern side at the bridge, and the river has already swung against this bank some 2 km. north of the bridge. This gives defensible positions as well as facilities for bridging, and helps to account for the historic, if somewhat localised, importance of the town of Curtea de Argeş, the focus of the region of which studies were made.

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Plan of Curtea de Argeş. Wooded areas shaded. Heights in metres.

CURTEA DE ARGEŞ

133 261 REFERENCE has already been made to the bridging of the Olt and the Argeş about 20-25 km. from the mountain-edge and to the rise near these bridges of the towns of Ramnicu Valcea and Curtea de Argeş. It has also been explained that terraces on the left bank of the Argeş swing near the river to give an effective bridge-end site capable of defence. Curtea de Argeş is one of the oldest settlements in Muntenia.

[491] AT THE BRIDGE the river is over 420 m. above sea, and from its western end an old trackway, now a main road, follows approximately the 440 m. contour on what appears to be a terrace against which the river swings about 1½-2 km. north of the bridge. Here also gravel reaches, connected with the junction of a brook with the main stream, provide a ford; [778] and at this spot on the east side of the river there is the monastery of royal associations founded in 1510 and celebrated as a place of pilgrimage. Beyond this the road goes on up a tributary valley towards the east. The bridge and town however grew up not at this ford, but at a point farther south, where the north-south residual ridge bounding the Argeş valley on the east sends a spur almost to the actual river but just cut off by a seasonal tributary brook. The end of this spur shows two marked terraces, one just slightly above the river, the other some 12 m. above it and rising, as was said [346] above, to about the 440 m. contour. On the end of the spur is a ruined Roman Catholic church, built for Marghita, wife of Prince Basarab. The Wallachian princes of these days appear to have had a habit of marrying Catholic women. One seems to see faint indications that the site of the church has been to a slight extent developed artificially. In 1390 this church served as a cathedral for Catholics in Wallachia, and the see lasted until 1602, by which time many Catholics had become Orthodox and the Catholic bishopric was removed to Dacau.

[491] REFERENCE has already been made to the north-south road on the terrace, no doubt a modernisation of an old trackway, with the town near the end of the spur and the bridge, and the monastery to the north. Near the end of the spur, and

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[Curtea De Arges]

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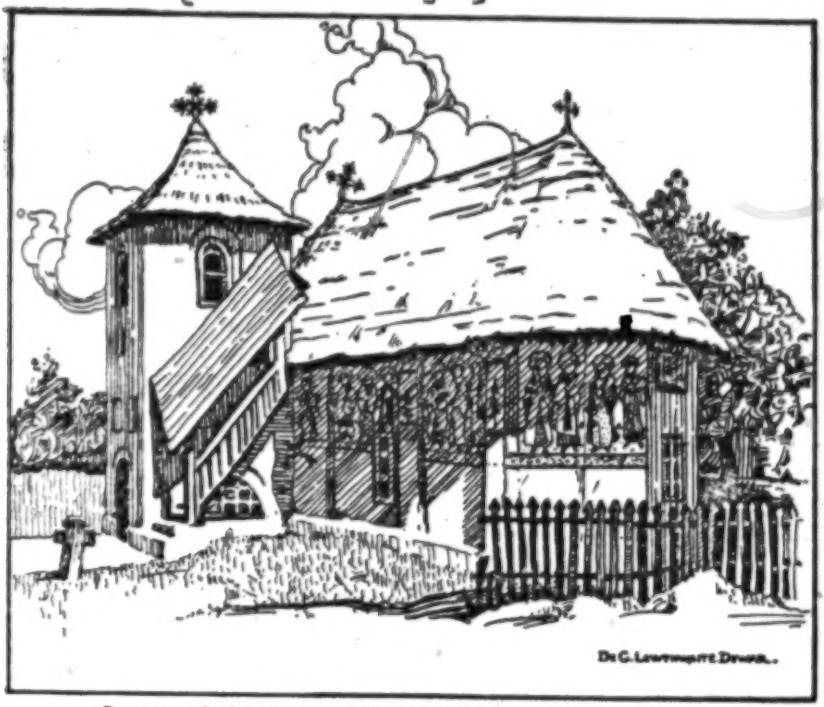

Cream-washed and painted church of St. Mary at Curtea de Argeş

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related to the brook already mentioned, is a spring of some value. Above this, on the terrace, is the nucleus of the town—an Orthodox church (1352) of exceptional dignity and beauty, the Biserica Domneasca, built in a fortified enclosure. This scheme suggests comparisons with such Saxon villages as Cristian, near Sibiu, and several others, though there the church was Catholic. The fortification at Curtea de Argeş is larger than those at such places at Cristian, but it is far from being equivalent to the fortification enclosing the primary nucleus of Sibiu, for that nucleus included church, market places, shops and residences. It seems to have been a widespread rule that where a whole town was not walled there should be at any rate a fortified refuge enclosing the church. In the Slavonic parts of the European plain there were, of old, burgwälle or earthwork refuges, in some cases one for each area of about 120-130 km., or, say, fifty British square miles. These burgwälle sometimes became the nuclei of towns, the Wawel at Krakow being perhaps the best known among many examples. On the Wawel, and in analogous places in many

towns, stands a church in a fortified enclosure, and the town has been laid out beyond this. It is possible to infer that a similar process has worked itself out, but to a lesser degree, both in the Saxon villages of Transylvania and in such cases as that of Curtea de Argeş. Here the church-and-castle nucleus is as usual the focus of roads, the principal one of which runs along the terrace as already mentioned. Two others lead down towards the river, one on each side of the fortification, but not exactly to the bridge, the position of which is rather determined by gravel banks where the small seasonal brook referred to above joins the river. Some other roads or trackways branch off in a bunch just east of the nucleus and stretch up into hills of unconsolidated material, their woodland cover increasing with altitude and becoming practically continuous forest at about 600 m. altitude over sea. Where the woods are not continuous there is pasture up to which animals may be drawn every day in summer. One of these roads leads past a little old church of S. Mary and appears to be an old track leading obliquely up the hillside over into the next valley to the east. Along the beginning of this trackway are the homes of numerous craftsmen, especially potters, but we did not get evidence of a guild or zunft of potters. We are not here dealing with quite the same scheme of organisation as that of a trade in a street within a walled town. The main business part of the town has lain between the bridge end and the road on the terrace, 10-20 m. above the river, and the town has been physically constrained to spread along that road. The extension southwards has an interesting eighteenth century house overlooking a square set out quite recently. The extension northwards towards the monastery gives a ribbon of buildings mostly modern.

On the whole, one has the impression of a focus of peasant life with fairs and markets and opportunities of sale of craft products, especially pots, to country folk. There is evidence of considerable quite modern growth, and also apparently of growth one to two centuries ago, a growth which it is tempting to associate with agricultural development gathered around the spread of maize and potato, but proof is lacking.

Curtea de Argeş owes a great deal of its importance to its religious and princely associations, and both the Biserica Domneasca and the monastery church are important here. The latter, near a ford, may well have more ancient associa-

[Curtea de Arges -- 25 Analyst]

361 tions, but we know of nothing there before 1510. To the
771 existence of the monastery, which is the seat of a bishop, is due the development of a seminary.

161 THE POPULATION in 1930 was 6,831. In 1931 there were 181
163 births, 24 infant deaths (under one year), 20 still-births, and 125 deaths from all causes. Marriages numbered 61 and divorces 4. The birth-rate is thus high, the infant death-rate considerable, but not so high as might be expected; still-births are numerous.

H. J. F.
E. E. E.

1[of Curtea de Arges -- Analyst]

415

BROWN CLAY.
WHITE & GREEN SLIP.

5: Fleure S-5 (no date)1939 EDI Rumania EDI

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AT CURTEA DE ARGEŞ

CURTEA DE ARGEŞ is a small town of 6,831 inhabitants (in 1930), situated in the valley of the River Argeş, at an altitude of 1,400 feet.

A SERIES of wells supply the town with water, there being no system of pipes to supply running water. The drainage system is necessarily of a primitive type, the dry closet type being the one in use.

THE TOWN possesses two hospitals:

(1) A general hospital with pavilion for epidemic cases.

(2) Home for incurables—a branch of a nerve clinic in Bucharest.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL is situated in the centre of the town on a slight eminence, a few yards from the main street. It consists of two wards, one for men and one for women. The cases are mixed, medical and surgical cases being nursed in the same ward. There are fifteen beds for men and fifteen for women. In addition there are two small wards for clean surgical cases, each containing two beds.

THE BEDS are of the usual hospital type, but placed close together about three feet apart. The mattresses and pillows are stuffed with straw and are very hard. The patients wear their own clothes. This being summer, less than one half of the beds were in use. The villagers refuse to come to hospital in summer, when there is work to be done in the fields, unless in cases of stern necessity. A belief in witchcraft and secret remedies is prevalent, so that progress as regards treatment is hampered. Epidemics of dysentery and typhoid are common. Tuberculosis is widespread, and goitre is found in all the villages in this valley. Cretinism in the children is untreated, and most villages contain cases. No medication of the water supply is undertaken. Pulmonary tuberculosis is treated in sanatoria, but other cases of tuberculosis are admitted here. Cancer is also common, but is not dealt with here—the cases are sent to Bucharest for radium treatment.

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12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

round the highland of Transylvania in the north, /33
east and south; the rolling plains of Wallachia; the Danube, which still is the southern frontier and main line of communication; and the slopes and steppes of Moldavia and Bessarabia.

The massive Carpathians are formed by two mountain ranges: the Eastern Carpathians which, rising west of the Pruth, extend southwards to the region of Brasov; and the Southern Carpathians, with high peaks of over 7,500 ft., which stretch westward and then turn to the south, where they reach the Danube. South of the great bend, formed by the two chains of mountains, lies the famous oil district of Campina and Ploesti, one of the chief economic assets of Rumania. The beautiful southern and eastern slopes of the Carpathians flatten out into the fertile plains of Wallachia and Moldavia, the latter merging in the east with the Bessarabian plateau, and in the north with the valleys and forests of the Bukovina. The Dobrudja, lying east of the Danube, as it turns northward, adds considerably to Rumania's share of the Black Sea coast. North and west of Transylvania lie the mountainous province of Maramures and the lowlands of the Crisana, which, geographically, belong to the Hungarian plain. The south-western tip of Greater Rumania was formed by the Banat, partitioned after the Great War between Yugoslavia and Rumania.

In Wallachia and Moldavia there is much which /33
is purely Balkan. There are the small villages with 361
muddy streets and little one-storied cottages of sun-dried brick, painted white and blue, some with wooden gables gaily decorated. On the great, rolling

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

133 plains an endless sea of ripening wheat and maize
• 361 dips and rises in the summer breeze.

In the Carpathian valleys and in Transylvania dark forests alternate with fertile, gently rising slopes, irrigated by swift rivers which descend from the high mountains. Old castles and mansions of Hungarian nobles still guard the highways which pass through Rumanian, Hungarian and German villages and the small 'Saxon' towns, some of which have still preserved the atmosphere of mediaeval German townships.

In the Bukovina the civilizing influence of the Austrians is still visible. This small province, with its factories and prosperous farms, is one of the crossroads where east and west meet. In Bessarabia Russian and Ukrainian influences are very strong. The churches and cottages, the peasants' carts and dresses recall the Ukraine east of the Dniester. The Dobrudja, with its undulating uplands and its long, sandy Black Sea shore, offers good grazing for many great flocks of sheep which are driven there in the autumn to escape from the icy winter in the Carpathians. The province is only sparsely populated and has a definitely Balkan character. Fezzes and turbans are still common in the streets of its little towns. The plains west of Transylvania differ little in their aspect from the great Hungarian plains, but here too there is a great diversity of peoples and cultures, all adding to the colourful and often confusing picture of Rumania as it was between the two wars.

162 THE POPULATION. The acquisition of the New Territories after the Great War brought many non-

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

[Oltenia]

the Olt, copper near Baia de Arama and salt near Ocnele Mari, north of Govora. The peasant population, in spite of the great agricultural wealth of the province, is extremely poor. The people live in small villages near the rivers. The houses are more often than not almost subterranean mud-huts. Agricultural implements are very primitive. The wooden plough is still widely used.

Oltenia was the first district of Rumania which was colonized by the Romans. It formed the spearhead, and later the base, for the Roman penetration of Dacia. Among the most interesting relics of Roman times found in Oltenia are the ruins of a bridge built by Trajan and the fort just outside Turnu-Severin. After the Roman withdrawal Oltenia shared the fortunes of Muntenia,[1] and in 1859 joined the Principality of Rumania.

The capital and chief industrial and commercial town of Oltenia is Craiova with a population of about 60,000. It is also the road and rail junction linking Bucarest with Oltenia and the western provinces. Turnu-Severin on the Danube is the important port guarding the famous 'Iron Gates'. Here the current of the Danube, passing through a narrow gorge is too strong and the water too shallow for shipping to make headway upstream. A deep channel has therefore been blasted in the rock of the river bed and vessels are towed up it by locomotives on the railway alongside. Before the Great War Turnu-Severin was the frontier town between Rumania and Austria-Hungary. It has still preserved the character of a picturesque oriental marketing centre.

[1] Except that in 1718, after the Austrian occupation of Belgrade, Oltenia was temporarily under Austrian rule.

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

[Oltenia]

[Muntenia]

The Danubian ports of Calafat and Corabia handle wheat exports and also have some valuable industries.

MUNTENIA. To the east of the River Olt extends Muntenia, the other province of Wallachia. It covers an area of about 20,600 square miles and has a population of about 4,500,000. The southern and eastern boundaries of the province are formed by the Danube, the northern frontier by the Carpathians. The land surface and climate of Muntenia are similar to those of Oltenia, but the hilly region south of the Carpathians is narrower. The fertile steppes, Baragan, Burnas, Gavan and Burdeas, are situated on the northern banks of the Danube which floods the adjoining districts and forms many lakes and marshes. The highest peaks of the Carpathians in Muntenia are the Negoi and the Moldovan, both over 7,500 ft. The most important of the many rivers descending from the high mountains are the Dambovita, Jalomita, Arges and Buzau, all of which eventually flow into the Danube. The endless maize and wheat fields of Muntenia are covered in summer with heavy crops and on the steppes great flocks of sheep find their food. In spite of very dry summers and icy winters like those of Russia this region is one of the richest of Rumania and the whole of Europe.

Muntenia differs from all Rumanian provinces in that, in addition to stock breeding, the raising of high-quality crops, fishery and forestry, it possesses a source of wealth which is not found in such abundance in any other part of Europe, the oil fields of Campina and Ploesti. There the hilly, wooded countryside suddenly changes into a modern in-

361 dustrial region with the tall wooden towers above the oil wells and the circular oil containers attached to the refineries. Campina and Ploesti are similar to the towns which sprang up during the American gold rushes. Great modern buildings stand next to primitive huts; fast American cars overtake peasant carts; rich speculators rub shoulders with shabby workers. These are towns in which extreme wealth and abject poverty live side by side.

BUCAREST. A similar, if somewhat more westernized, atmosphere reigns in Bucarest, the capital of Muntenia and of the whole of Rumania. Bucarest, which its more prosperous citizens like to call the 'Paris of the Balkans', has almost 1,000,000 inhabitants, and it has in many respects assumed the character of an American city. With ultra-modern buildings, wide thoroughfares bordered by shady alleys, and fast taxis the centre of Bucarest resembles the most modern of western cities. But the typical features of the Balkans have survived. Narrow little streets, quaint Orthodox churches, horse-carriages and hawkers are plentiful. Bucarest is the greatest industrial town of Rumania. Many factories of all
[366] descriptions are situated here. All the great commercial houses and banks, both Rumanian and foreign, have their head offices in Bucarest. The capital's importance is enhanced by its key position as a centre of communications. The main trunk road from Transylvania passing through the Predeal Pass, Sinaia, Campina and Ploesti links up in Bucarest with the roads leading south to the Danube, east to the Danube and the Black Sea and west to Oltenia.

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1
[Bucarest]
[The Dobrudja]

Bucarest is also the chief railway centre of Rumania.

Giurgiu on the Danube, south of Bucarest and the terminus of one of the oil pipe-lines from Ploesti, is one of the main Rumanian wheat and oil ports. Another Danubian port, where great quantities of wheat are handled, is Braila with a population of about 70,000.

There are no natural barriers to communications in Muntenia. In the south the chief flow of traffic is carried by the Danube. Rail and road communications from Transylvania pass through the Predeal and a railway line leads over the Danube to the Dobrudja.

THE DOBRUDJA (Dobrogea[R]).[1] Up till 1878 the whole of the Dobrudja belonged to Bulgaria. Ever since, this province has been a bone of contention between Rumania and Bulgaria. The northern part of the Dobrudja was awarded to Rumania in 1878 to compensate her for the loss of Southern Bessarabia to Russia. The southern part of the province was ceded by Bulgaria after her defeat at the hands of her neighbours in the Second Balkan War in 1913. This region was returned to Bulgaria in 1940.

Geographically the Dobrudja is the north-eastern corner of the Balkan Peninsula. Its boundaries are in the north and west the Danube and in the east the Black Sea. There are three distinct regions: the delta of the Danube, the forests of Babadag, and farther south the steppe, which is the most fertile

[1] The letter R, H or G following a geographical term denotes a Rumanian, Hungarian or German name, respectively.

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

[The Dobrudja]

part of the Dobrudja. The delta of the Danube is formed by the three arms Chilia, Sulina and St George. It includes an area of about 1,000 square miles, in which water and land, marshes, lakes and islands feed an almost tropical vegetation. The chief communications through the delta are provided by the Sulina canal and by causeways.

The steppes of the Southern Dobrudja yield good crops of wheat and maize, and the pastures maintain great herds of sheep. Mineral resources are confined to some unworked coal deposits, valuable copper near Altantepe, and sulphur.

The Dobrudja is about 9,300 square miles in all: of this some 2,960 square miles were returned to Bulgaria in 1940. The population of the province as a whole is about 850,000. Its main value to the contesting States lies in the Black Sea stretch of coast. The port of Constanza, the greatest and most important on the western shores of the Black Sea, has modern harbour works built at the beginning of this century and covering an area of 60 hectares. It was through Constanza that Rumanian exports used to pass to France and Great Britain. The docks of Constanza are about 30 ft. deep and can, therefore, be used by large, sea-going ships. The harbour facilities include storage buildings for wheat and oil-tanks with a capacity for over 200,000 cubic metres of fuel, which are fed by the pipe-lines coming from Ploesti. Oil can moreover be pumped straight from the pipe-lines simultaneously into four tankers. Another great advantage is that the port is completely ice-free all the winter. Constanza is the administrative centre of the Dobrudja and also a well-known seaside resort. Rail communications

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

[The Dobrudja]
[Moldavia]

with the rest of Rumania are provided by the line Constanza-Cernavoda-Bucarest. 361

MOLDAVIA (Moldova[R]). The second of the two original Rumanian principalities is only half as big as Wallachia and its population is about half. Moldavia covers an area of about 15,280 square miles, and is inhabited by about 2,500,000 Rumanians, Jews, Hungarians, Slavs and Germans. 131 161

Owing to its geographical position Moldavia was more exposed to Polish, Russian and also Hungarian influence than Wallachia. After the death of the *voivode* Stephen the Great in 1504, the country became part of the Turkish dominions. From then onwards Moldavia shared the fate of Wallachia. Russian influence, however, naturally made itself felt in greater intensity in Moldavia. The independence of the principality was restored under John Cuza who eventually became the first ruler of the United Principalities. 175

The western boundaries of Moldavia are formed by the Carpathians. In the south the province borders on Muntenia and in the north on the Bukovina, which originally was part of Moldavia. The eastern frontier is formed by the River Pruth. The western part of Moldavia consists of the slopes of the Carpathian Mountains and the hill region below. Farther east the country flattens out into the plains which are bordered by the valley of the Pruth. The most fertile districts lie on the western bank of the Pruth and in the eastern corner of the province. The hills, which reach heights of 1,800 ft., are wooded. But there is much fertile soil which produces wheat and maize. There are also vineyards 131 133

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

[Moldavia]

and good pasture. The Sereth, which waters this region and runs parallel to the Pruth, flows into the Danube below Galati.

On the eastern slopes of the Carpathians there are large deposits of oil which have not yet been fully exploited. In the *comitat* Bacau, also in the mountain region of Moldavia, there are some valuable coal and salt mines. The salt mines of Targu-Ocna are the most important in the whole of Rumania.

The majority of the people of Moldavia are employed on the land. They grow wheat, maize and sugar-beet and tend the vines. Recently, successful experiments have been made with the growing of industrial crops. Timber felling provides another source of income, especially at Targu-Neamt, Piatra-Neamt and Focsani. There are important refineries at Moinesti and Solont, sugar factories at Roman and Ripiceni, and large textile works at Buhusi.

The capital and economic centre of Moldavia is the town of Jasi, on the western bank of the Pruth. Its population numbers about 80,000, more than half of them Jews. Jasi, lying on a number of vine-growing hills overlooking the valley of the Pruth, is an old commercial centre, which used to be visited in the middle ages by Genoese, Venetian and Greek merchants. In Jasi, with its wide streets flanked by long rows of one-storied houses, there is the oldest Rumanian University, founded by John Cuza, a famous library containing over 160,000 books, and many other cultural institutions. Jasi has a number of iron and steel works, several clothing factories and is the chief marketing centre for cattle and wine in Moldavia.

7

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944

ED1 Rumania ED1

[Moldavia]

[The Banat]

Another important town, and the greatest Rumanian port on the Danube, is Galati with a population of about 75,000. Galati lies about a hundred miles from the Black Sea, but the harbour is so placed that sea-going ships can enter the port through the delta and anchor there all through the ice-free period. From Galati timber, wheat and maize from all over Rumania are sent abroad. Incoming cargoes of industrial goods are unloaded there.

The only line leading directly to Transylvania goes over the Ghimes Pass. The traffic to Bessarabia is carried by four railway lines.

The New Territories

The New Territories, acquired by Rumania after the war of 1914–18 and ~~partly lost~~ since 1940, cover an area of 62,800 square miles and were inhabited in 1940 by about 10,500,000 people. The Banat, the Crisana, Maramures and Transylvania formed, up to 1918, parts of Hungary; the Bukovina belonged to Austria, and Bessarabia was taken from Russia. Many parts of the New Territories were agriculturally and industrially better developed than the Old Kingdom.

THE BANAT. The Rumanian part of the Banat covers an area of about 7,400 square miles and has a population of 1,000,000. The province is bordered in the north by the River Mures[R] (Maros[H], Marosch[G]), in the west by the Yugoslav part of the Banat, in the south by the Danube, and in the east by the Carpathians. The north-western part of the province is

[The Banat]

[The Crisana]

The high quality of the crops in this province, amongst them wheat, maize, rye, oats, and the high standard of animal breeding, have made the Banat known far beyond the borders of Rumania. The fertility of the soil is due partly to the 'black earth' which, in a greater or lesser degree, is a component of all the arable land. Apart from being an important agricultural region, the Banat possesses valuable industries, forests and minerals. Iron ore and coal are mined in the area of Resita and Anina, where there are great iron and steel works which produce railway equipment and armaments. The Danubian port of Orsova, guarding the western entrance to the 'Iron Gates', also has an oil refinery.

The capital of the Banat is Timisoara[R] (Temesvar[H]) on the Bega with a population of 100,000. In Roman times the fortress of Ripensia was situated here. In Hunyadi's time it was a centre of resistance against the Turks, only second in importance to Belgrade. To-day the town is a great rail and road junction with many factories, banks, commercial houses and cultural institutions. Lugoj, on the Timis, with a population of 20,000, and Caransebes, north of the Porta Orientalis which leads through the mountains of the Banat to the Danube, are marketing towns of some importance.

THE CRISANA AND MARAMURES. Geographically the Crisana is the eastern borderland of the Hungarian plain. The province covers an area of about 8,400 square miles and has a population of just under 1,500,000. The Crisana lies between Transylvania in the east, the River Mures (Maros[H]) in the south; Hungary (as reduced by the Treaty of the Trianon) in the west and Czechoslovakia in the north.

1

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944

ED1 Rumania ED1

[The Crisana]

in the west and Czechoslovakia in the north. The inhabitants of the Crisana are Rumanians, Hungarians, Jews, Germans and some Slavs. Taken as a whole the province contains a slight Rumanian majority, but there is in the immediate frontier region a fairly homogeneous Hungarian population, which forms a local majority.

The western part of the Crisana has the same features as the lowlands of Hungary. The types of agriculture also closely resemble those of the rest of the country on both banks of the Tisza[H] (Theiss[G]). There are wide, flat fields of maize and wheat interspersed with pastures, grazed by horses and longhorn cattle. To the east the country rises and forms a chain of hills which produce good fruit and wine. Beyond are the mountains of Bihor (Bihar[H]) which form the western wall of Transylvania. These mountains are rich in coal, gold, copper, bauxite, asphalt and marble. Consequently this region maintains numerous industrial enterprises. Apart from its mineral resources and good wheat and maize the Crisana is also well known for its horses, cattle, pigs and sheep.

The capital of the Crisana is Oradea-Mare (Nagyvarad[H], Grosswardein[G]) in the valley of the Cris (Körös[H], Kreisch[G]). Its population of about 95,000 consists of Hungarians, Rumanians, Jews, Germans and others. Oradea is the junction for five railway lines and commands all the main communications leading from the Hungarian plain to Transylvania. The town is also the seat of many industries and the chief market for the agricultural produce of the province. Arad, on the northern bank of the Mures (Maros[H]), is inhabited by 65,000 people,

361 about 20,000 people, lies on the upper reaches of the Tisza; it is the centre from which beautifully hand-woven carpets are exported.

175 635 **TRANSYLVANIA** (Ardeal[R], Erdely[H], Siebenbuergen[G]). The citadel of Transylvania, guarded by the high walls of the Carpathians and overlooking the lowlands of the Danube, dominated the map of Greater Rumania during the interval between the two World Wars. The union of Transylvania was the fulfilment of an aspiration which Rumanians had for long wished to realize. But the incorporation of this principality into Greater Rumania brought with it a number of difficult problems which even to-day are far from being solved.

When the Magyars invaded Dacia in the tenth century there was already, according to the Rumanian contention, a substantial Rumanian population in Transylvania which was subjugated by them. Subsequent colonization with Hungarian and German settlers weakened the position of the Rumanians and led many of them to emigrate into the lowlands, south and east of the Carpathians. Transylvania became an autonomous principality within Hungary and was able to maintain its semi-independence even when the Turks advanced to the gates of Vienna. Many Transylvanian princes played a leading part in the long struggle against the Turks, notably those of the Bethlen family. Transylvania under its native Hungarian rulers succeeded in maintaining itself for a long time against both the Austrians and the Turks. But while the consequences of the struggle for independence invariably had to be borne by the majority of the population, economic and

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944

ED1 Rumania ED1

[Transylvania]

[The Bukovina]

361 peoples of Transylvania. Farther south, on the banks of the Mures, lies Alba Julia, with an old castle, a majestic Gothic church and a chapel in which King Ferdinand was crowned. Sibiu (Hermannstadt[G], Nagyszeben[H]), with a population of 46,000, half of which is German, is an ancient centre of the Transylvanian 'Saxons'. The town is entirely German in character and all the buildings, especially the churches and the market-place, are reminiscent of a little provincial borough in the Middle Ages. Two other places of historical interest are Heltau (Cisnadie[R]) and Michelsberg (Cisnadoara[R]), small German villages with peasant-fortresses built in the thirteenth century. The road to the east, along the foot of the South Carpathian wall, leads to Brasov (Brasso[H], Kronstadt[G]), the most important industrial and economic centre of Transylvania. Although the town has a population of only 60,000, there are numerous factories producing iron and steel, machine-tools, armaments, railway equipment, textiles, and other goods.

175 635 THE BUKOVINA (Buchenland[G]). The Bukovina forms the northernmost tip of Greater Rumania. This province of dense forests, gentle hills and fertile pastures has had a long and varied history. In Roman times it was part of Dacia and was subsequently overrun by many barbarian tribes. Soon after the establishment of Moldavia, the Bukovina was conquered by the rulers of that principality and annexed by them. For some time both Moldavia and the Bukovina were governed from the Bukovinian town of Suceava. In the following centuries the Bukovina was first under Polish, then Turkish

000 small deposits of coal, gold and lead, but the industry of the province is well developed.

• 361 The capital of the Bukovina is Czernowitz (Cernauti[R]) with over 100,000 inhabitants. The town is situated on a high hill near the Pruth and is a great commercial centre. Here branches of the Austrian banks and some big Viennese businesses remained. The population of Czernowitz, like that of the rest of the province, is very mixed. Economically important as a junction of several trade-routes, Czernowitz has also become a great industrial town during the last fifty years.

648 In June 1940 the Northern Bukovina, including Czernowitz, altogether about 2,260 square miles, was ceded by Rumania to the U.S.S.R. Thereby over 550,000 people, mostly Ukrainians and many Jews, became Soviet citizens.

131 161 BESSARABIA. For over twenty years the province of Bessarabia was the eastern frontier region of Greater Rumania. It covers an area of 17,760 square miles and has a population of 3,000,000.[1] Bessarabia is surrounded by natural frontiers: in the north and east by the River Dniester, in the south by the Black Sea and the Danube, and in the west by the Pruth.

133 The north of Bessarabia is formed by a highland about 1,000 ft. high, consisting of fertile arable land which belongs to the 'black-earth' region of the Ukraine. The central area is hilly country, divided

[1] To which were added 120,000 Polish and Ukrainian villagers transplanted from Eastern Poland by the Soviet authorities shortly before their retreat before the German attack in 1941.

12: Kormos S-4, 5 (no date) 1944
ED1 Rumania ED1

[Bessarabia]

by the valleys through which flow the tributaries of the Pruth and Dniester. In the south, beginning near Besarabeasca, extends the Budjak steppe which merges into the sandy soils, salt marshes and lagoons of the delta of the Danube and of the Black Sea coast. The climate of Bessarabia is the same as that of the regions east of the Dniester. The summers are very hot and dry, the winters very cold with icy winds and great snowfalls. Nevertheless, crops grow well in Bessarabia and 61% of the whole area is arable land. The chief products are maize, wheat, tobacco and wine and lately also soya beans. There are few factories and the only source of income for the people, apart from agriculture, is the fishing industry in the south.

The capital of Bessarabia is Kishineff (Chisinau[R]) with a population of over 200,000 (1935). Here are concentrated such industrial enterprises as the province possesses, the most important being flour mills, leather factories and other secondary industries connected with agriculture.

The first colonization of Bessarabia was carried out by the Romans who succeeded in occupying this territory only for a short time. During the great period of migration (seventh to tenth centuries), the province was invaded by a host of tribes. Bessarabia was first occupied by Rumanians in the early fourteenth century and incorporated in Moldavia in 1367. A century and a half later Southern Bessarabia fell to Turkey, but several merchant-colonies were still administered by Genoese and Venetian traders on the Danube delta and the Black Sea coast. In the following centuries Bessarabia was often a battleground for Russian and Turkish armies, who alter-